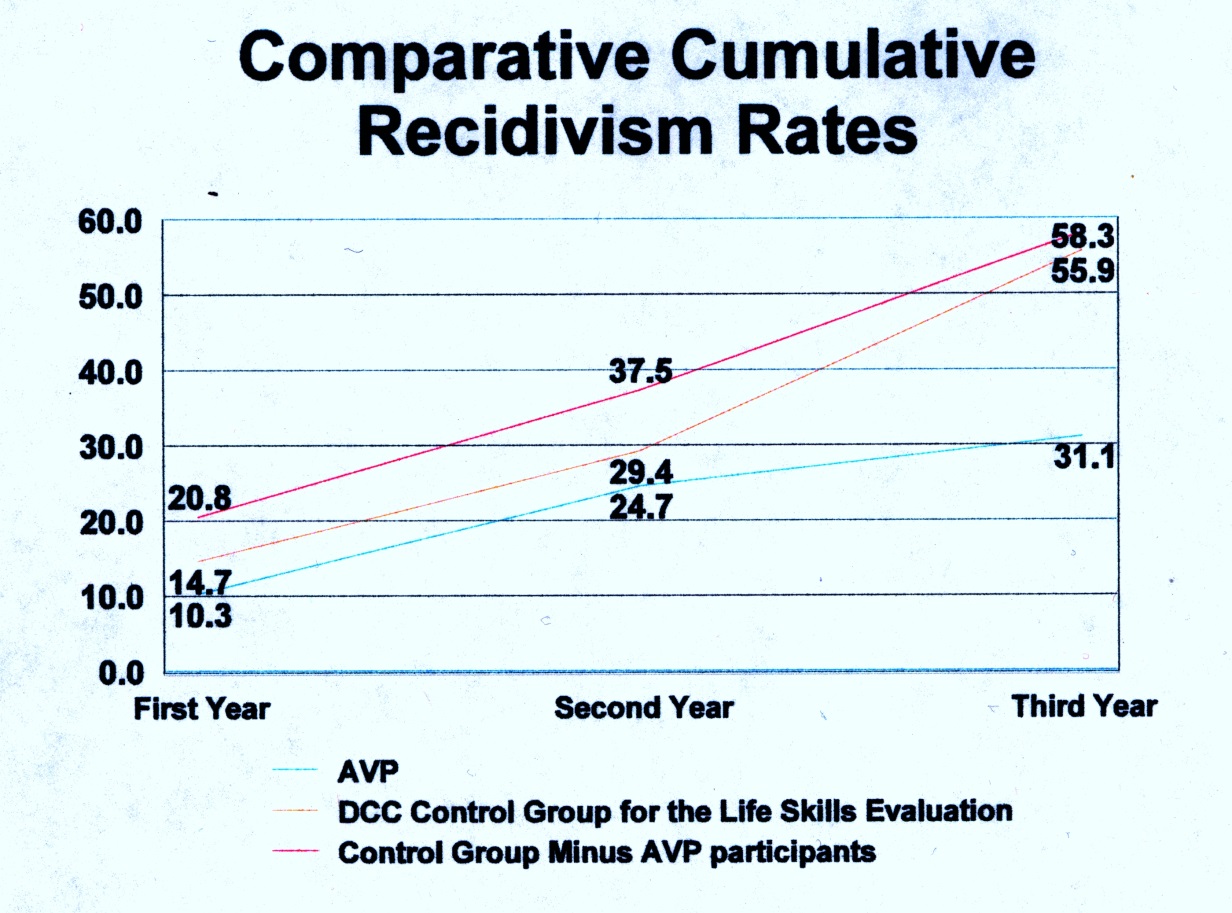
**Alternatives to Violence Project**

**Return on Investment**

A study on the effectiveness of the Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) workshops was done in Delaware.[[1]](#footnote-1) This study found that ***AVP reduced recidivism by nearly 50%*** - ***measured three years after release from prison***.

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This means that in a workshop with 20 participants, we would normally expect 12 participants to recidivate within 3 years after release from prison. But the AVP program would reduce this to 6. Thus statistically, a workshop will keep an additional 6 participants from going back to prison for committing new crimes, measured 3 years after release.

Given that it takes approximately $21,000/year [facility costs] to incarcerate an individual, this reflects a savings of $126,000/year in incarceration costs. Given an average state sentence of 4 years, this reflects ***$504,000 in incarceration savings***.

Add to this the criminal enforcement and justice costs of police, prosecution, defense attorney, and judicial resources and the savings become even larger. Additionally there are the crime victim sufferings and economic loses. Also 52% of inmates are parents of minor children.[[2]](#footnote-2) The removal of the parent from the home results in severe social costs such as school performance and increased risk for incarceration of the children, etc. Many of these families will be on assistance and food stamps as a direct result of incarceration of the parent. Lastly, the inmate moves from being a tax payer and a societal contributor to being a tax expense. If one were to calculate all these more remote costs and add them to the incarceration costs the savings are immense.

The cost of running one AVP workshop with 20 inmates is one CO for the weekend. Including overtime, hazard pay and pension, the highest paid most senior CO would cost $679.80. If we run two or three simultaneous workshops, the benefit is doubled or tripled.

**Cost of one weekend workshop = $679.80**

**Benefit of one workshop = $504,000.00**

***At Vaughn C. C., we have not been able to run any workshops in 2009. The potential savings could have been 12 months times $504,000, or $6,048,000 over 4 years at a cost of $8,158.***

1. <http://www.avpusa.org/ftp/recidivismreport.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)